

# Erie

## County Profile

### 2013

*A collection of recent demographic, social, economic and agricultural data*

Compiled by Jan Vink

Assisted by Joe Francis, Sutee Anantsuksomsri, Nij Tontisirin, Johannes Plambeck



**Cornell University**  
Cooperative Extension



This profile is a part of a set of profiles generated for each county in New York State. The profiles were developed and generated by the Cornell Program on Applied Demographics. The work is sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension and promoted with webinars and workshops in coordination with the Community & Regional Development Institute.

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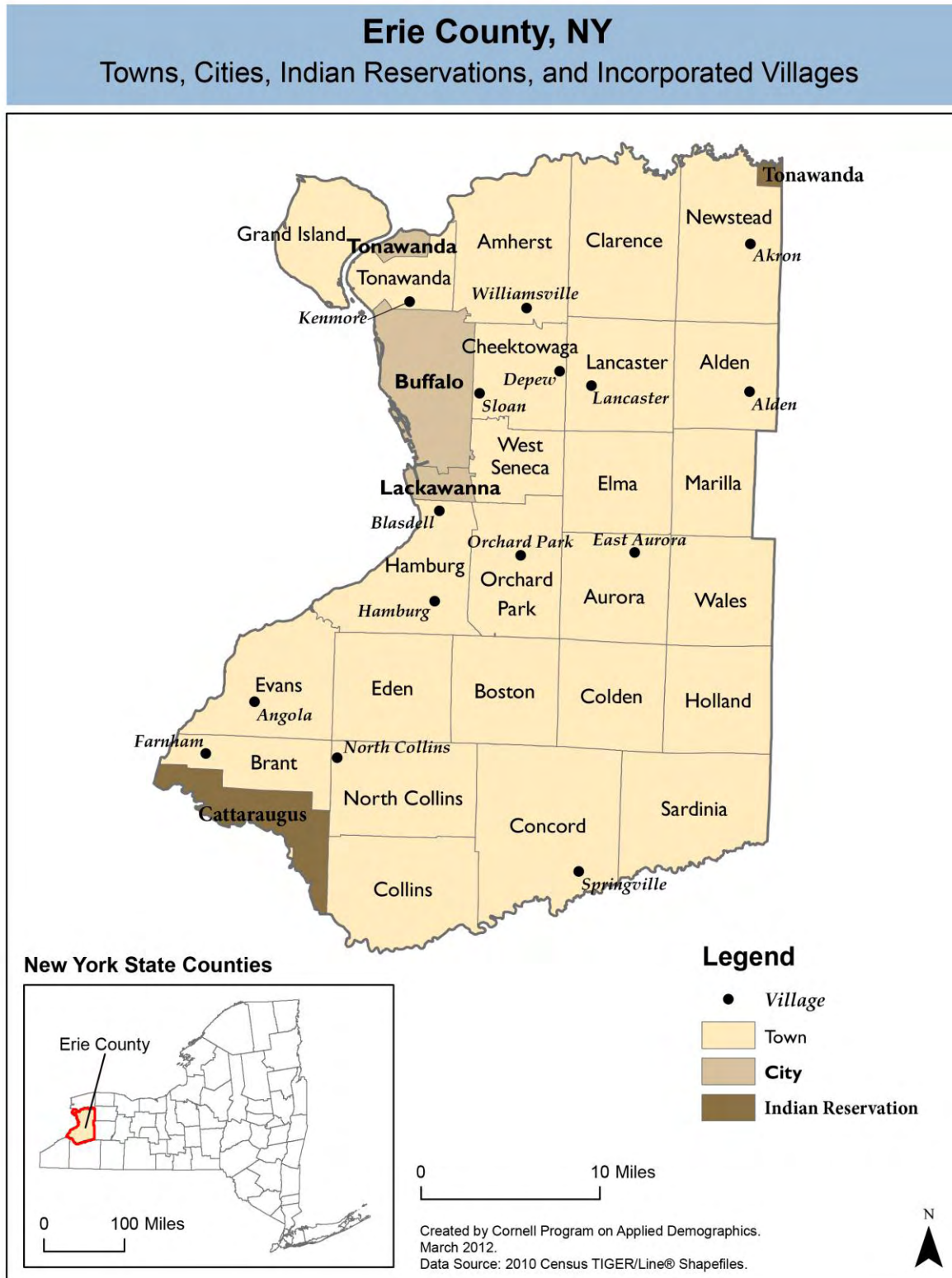
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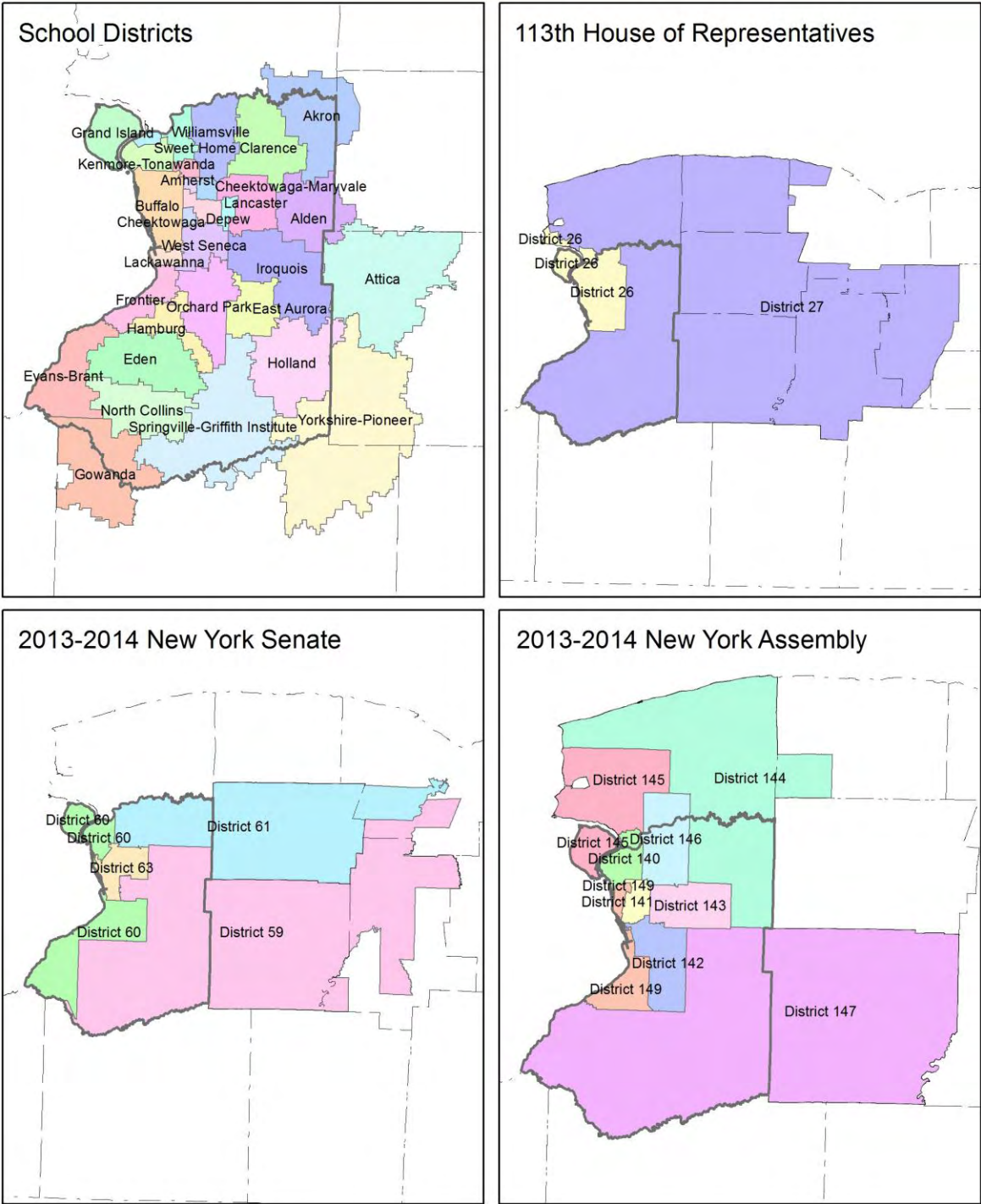
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# 1 Reference Maps

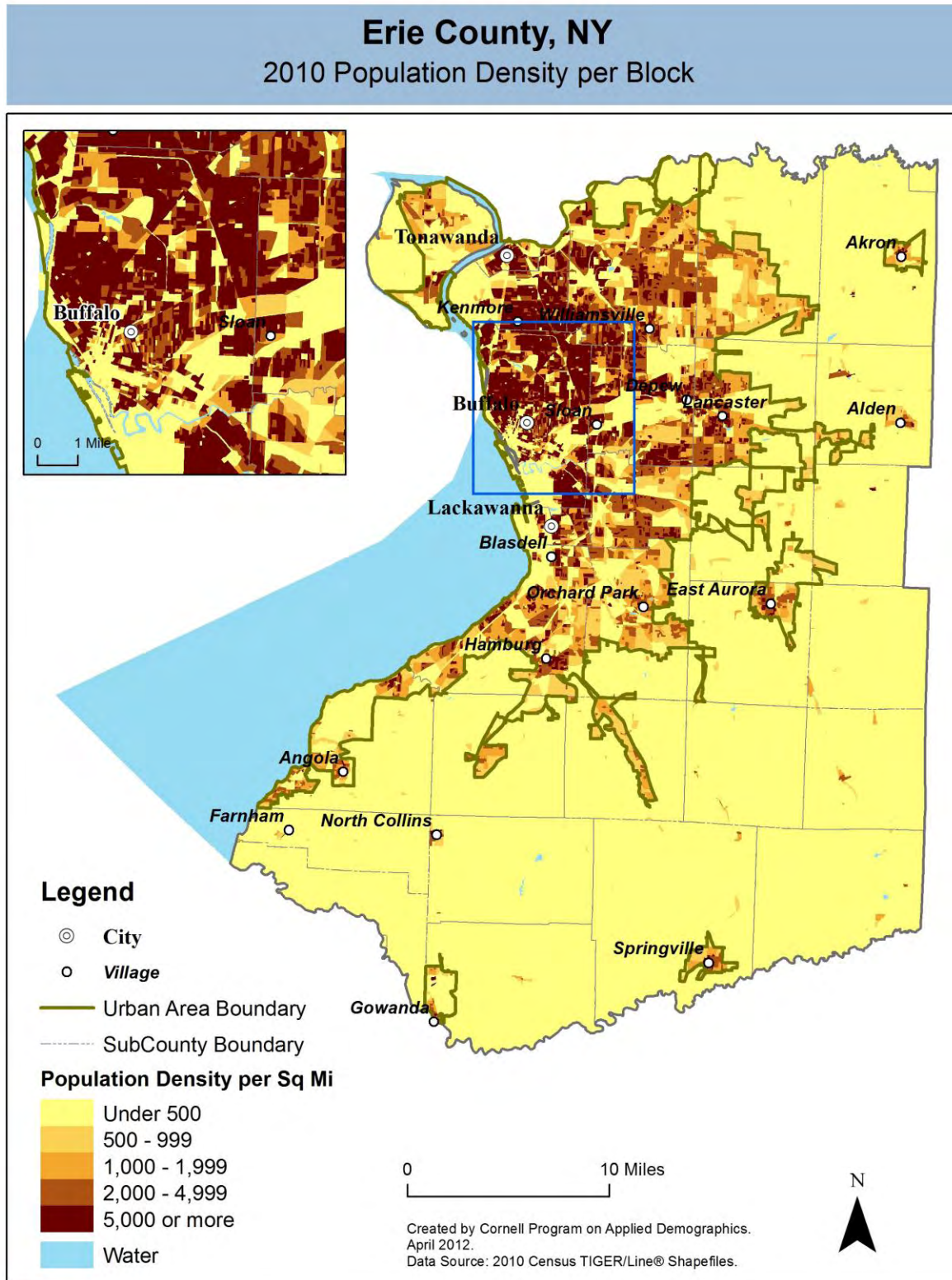


**Erie County, NY**  
Overlap with School and Political Districts





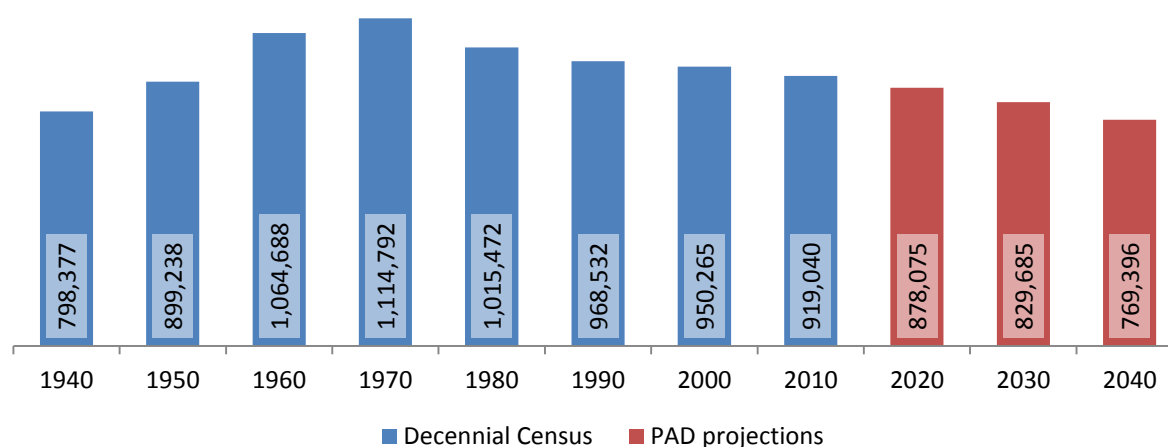
## 2 Population density and Urban Areas Map



### 3 Total Population

#### 3.1 Historic and projected

Total population, Erie County, 1940-2040



Source: 1940-2010 Decennial Census and projections by Cornell Program on Applied Demographics

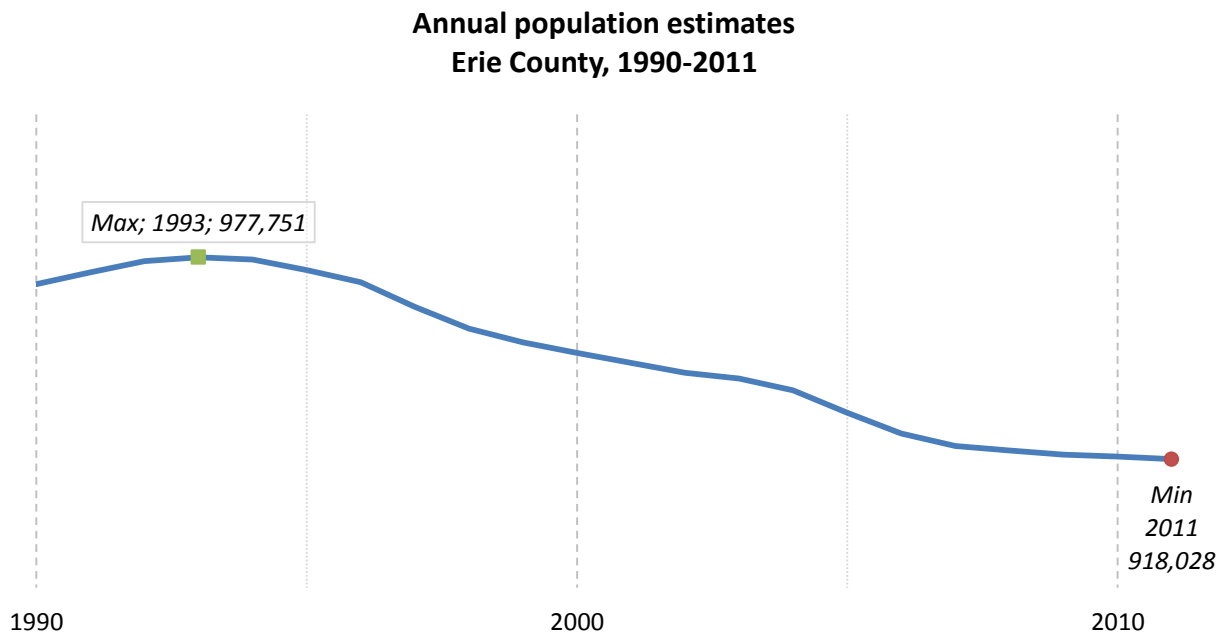
#### 3.2 Change since previous Census

		Total population	Change	
			Number	Percent
Decennial Census	1940	798,377		
	1950	899,238	100,861	12.6%
	1960	1,064,688	165,450	18.4%
	1970	1,114,792	50,104	4.7%
	1980	1,015,472	-99,320	-8.9%
	1990	968,532	-46,940	-4.6%
	2000	950,265	-18,267	-1.9%
	2010	919,040	-31,225	-3.3%
PAD projec- tions	2020	878,075	-40,965	-4.5%
	2030	829,685	-48,390	-5.5%
	2040	769,396	-60,289	-7.3%

Source: 1940-2010 Decennial Census and projections by Cornell Program on Applied Demographics



### 3.3 Annual population estimates



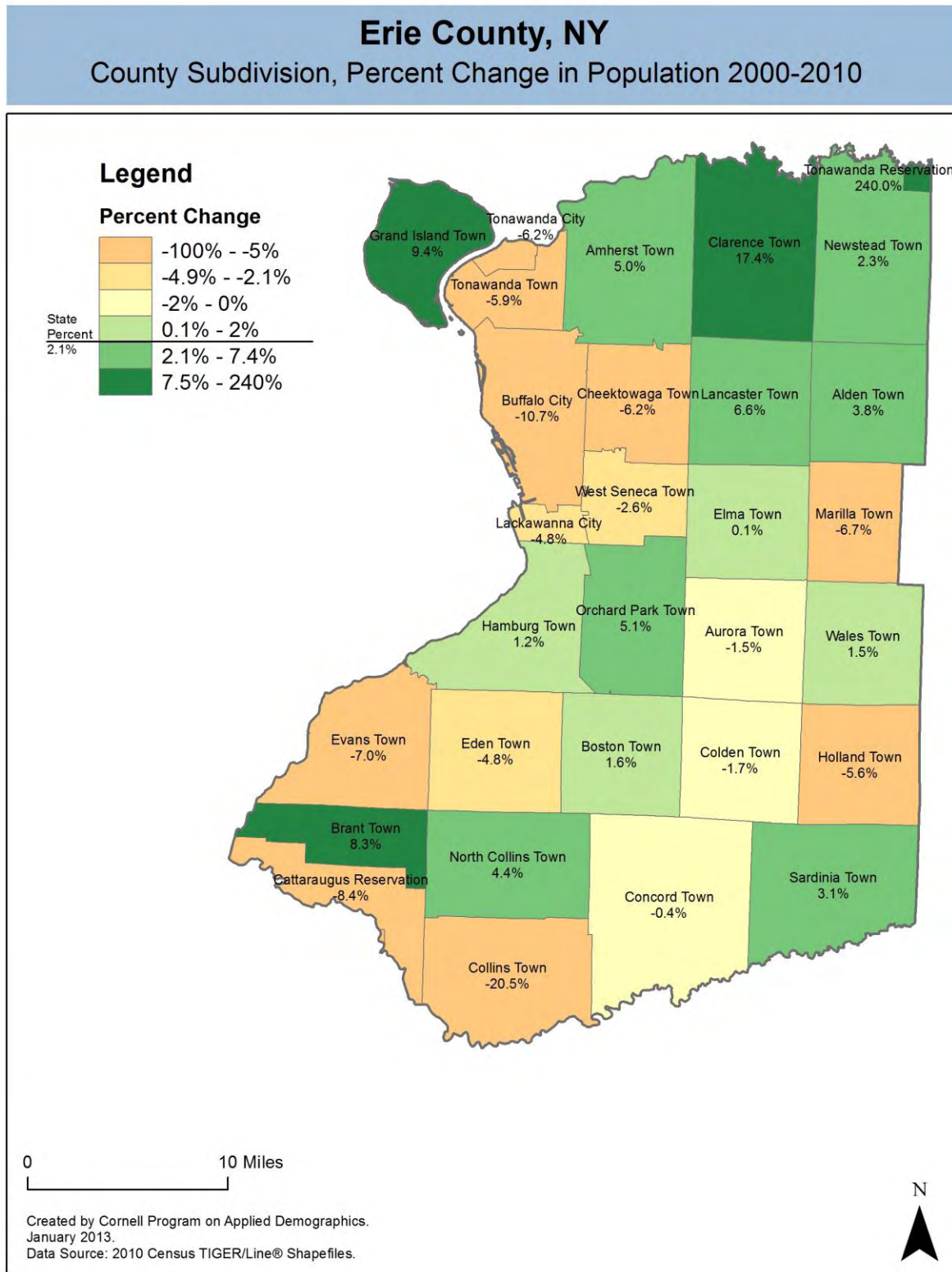
Source: U.S. Census Bureau population estimates (1990-1999 and 2000-2009 intercensal and vintage 2011 postcensal)

### 3.4 Percentage sub county change 2000-2010

	Total Population		Difference	
	2000	2010	Count	%
New York State	18,976,821 *	19,378,102	401,281	2.1%
Erie County	950,265	919,040	-31,225	-3.3%
<b>Cities</b>				
Buffalo	292,648	261,310	-31,338	-10.7%
Lackawanna	19,064	18,141	-923	-4.8%
Tonawanda	16,136	15,130	-1,006	-6.2%
<b>Towns</b>				
Alden	10,470	10,865	395	3.8%
Amherst	116,510	122,366	5,856	5.0%
Aurora	13,996	13,782	-214	-1.5%
Boston	7,897	8,023	126	1.6%
Brant	1,906	2,065	159	8.3%
Cheektowaga	94,019	88,226	-5,793	-6.2%
Clarence	26,123	30,673	4,550	17.4%
Colden	3,323	3,265	-58	-1.7%
Collins	8,307	6,601	-1,706	-20.5%
Concord	8,526	8,494	-32	-0.4%
Eden	8,076	7,688	-388	-4.8%
Elma	11,304	11,317	13	0.1%
Evans	17,594	16,356	-1,238	-7.0%
Grand Island	18,621	20,374	1,753	9.4%
Hamburg	56,259	56,936	677	1.2%
Holland	3,603	3,401	-202	-5.6%
Lancaster	39,019	41,604	2,585	6.6%
Marilla	5,709	5,327	-382	-6.7%
Newstead	8,404	8,594	190	2.3%
North Collins	3,376	3,523	147	4.4%
Orchard Park	27,637	29,054	1,417	5.1%
Sardinia	2,692	2,775	83	3.1%
Tonawanda	78,155	73,567	-4,588	-5.9%
Wales	2,960	3,005	45	1.5%
West Seneca	45,920	44,711	-1,209	-2.6%
<b>Reservations</b>				
Cattaraugus	2,001	1,833	-168	-8.4%
Tonawanda	10	34	24	240.0%

\* Original counts revised through Count Question Resolution Program (CQR)

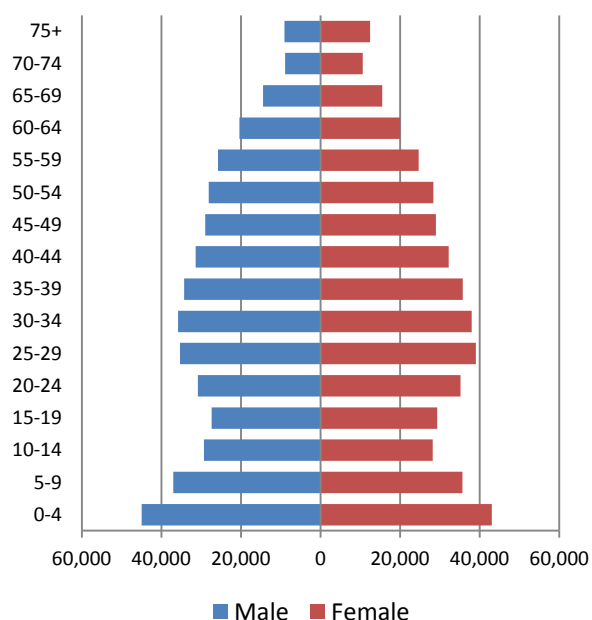
Source: U.S. Census Bureau intercensal population estimates 2000-2010



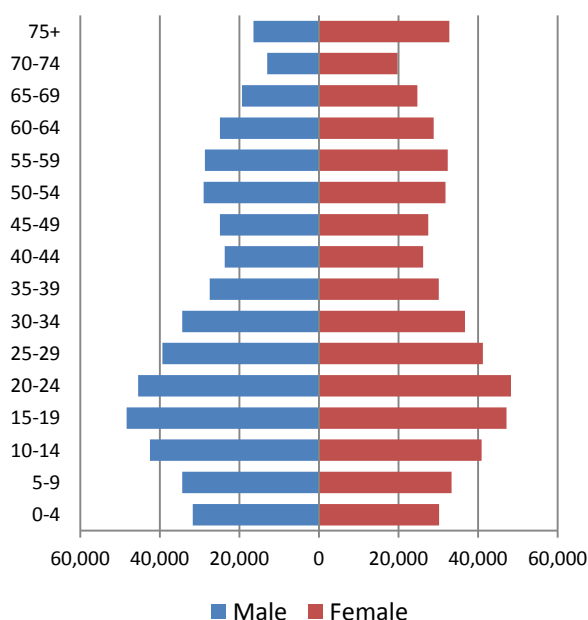
## 4 Population by age

### 4.1 Historic and projected population pyramids

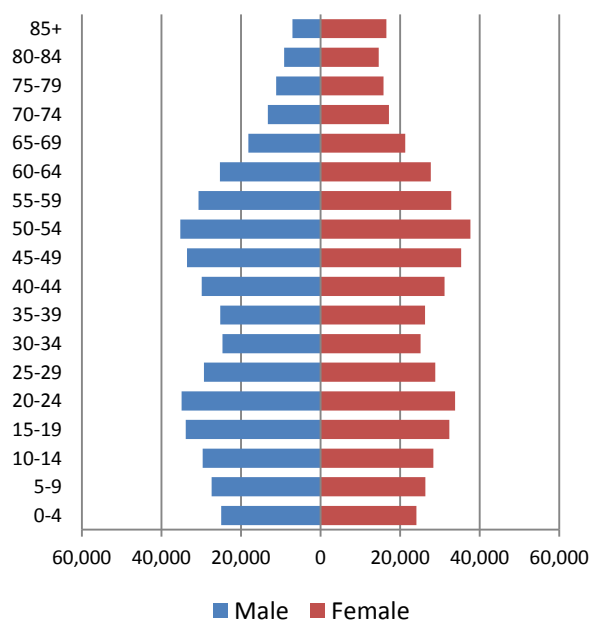
**1950 Population Pyramid, Erie County**



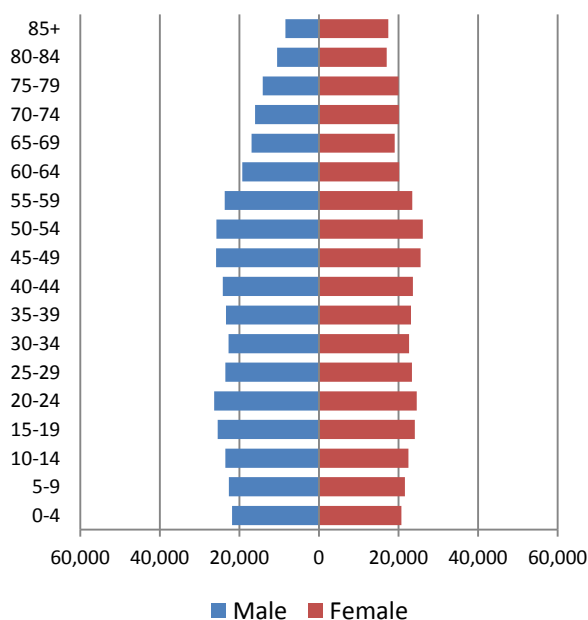
**1980 Population Pyramid, Erie County**



**2010 Population Pyramid, Erie County**



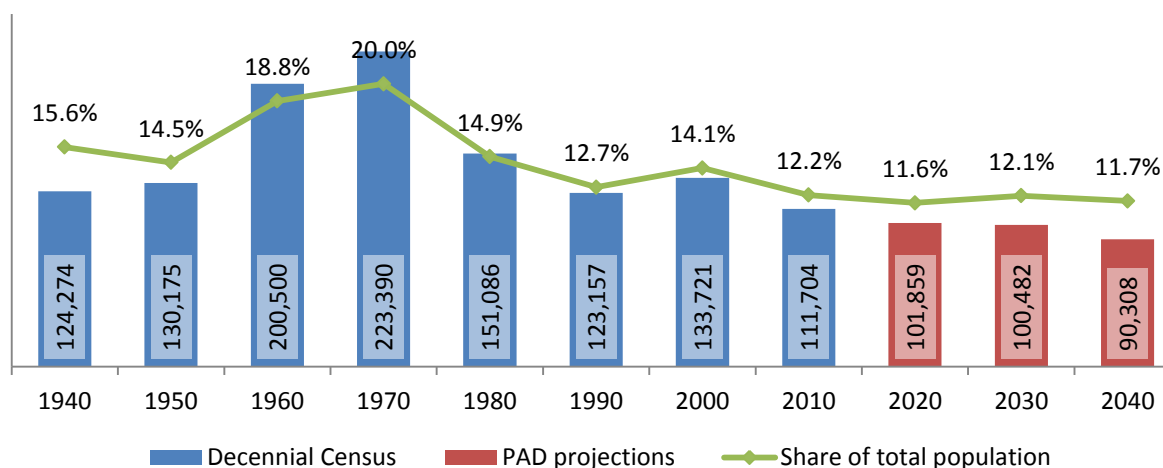
**2040 Population Pyramid, Erie County**



Source: 1950, 1980, 2010 Decennial Census and projections by Cornell Program on Applied Demographics

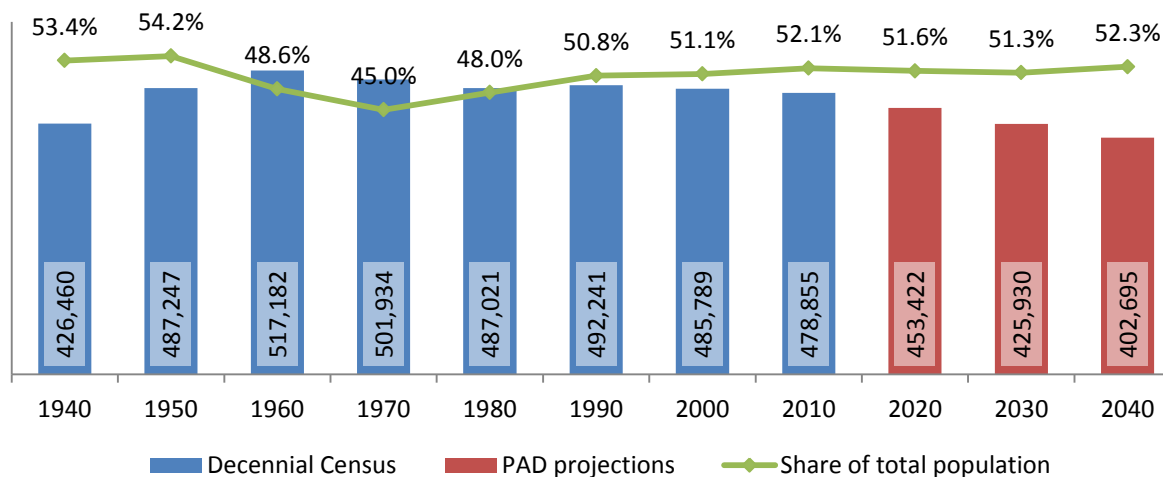
## 4.2 Selected age groups

**Population age 5-14, Erie County, 1940-2040**

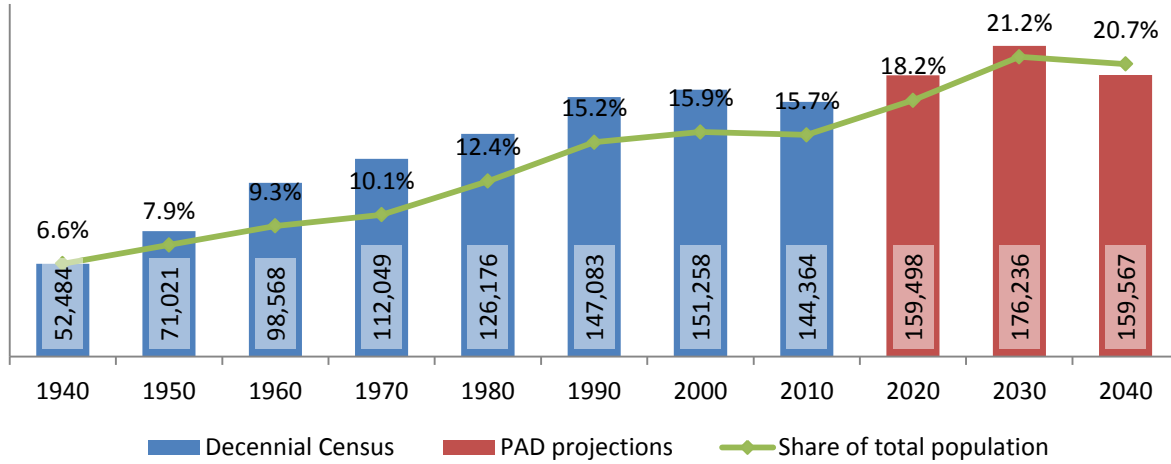


Source: 1940-2010 Decennial Census and projections by Cornell Program on Applied Demographics

**Population age 25-64, Erie County, 1940-2040**



Source: 1940-2010 Decennial Census and projections by Cornell Program on Applied Demographics

**Population age 65 and over, Erie County, 1940-2040**

Source: 1940-2010 Decennial Census and projections by Cornell Program on Applied Demographics



### 4.3 Median age: comparison between areas

	Median Age
New York State	38.0
Erie County	40.4

#### Cities

Buffalo city	33.2
Lackawanna city	40.0
Tonawanda city	42.7

#### Towns

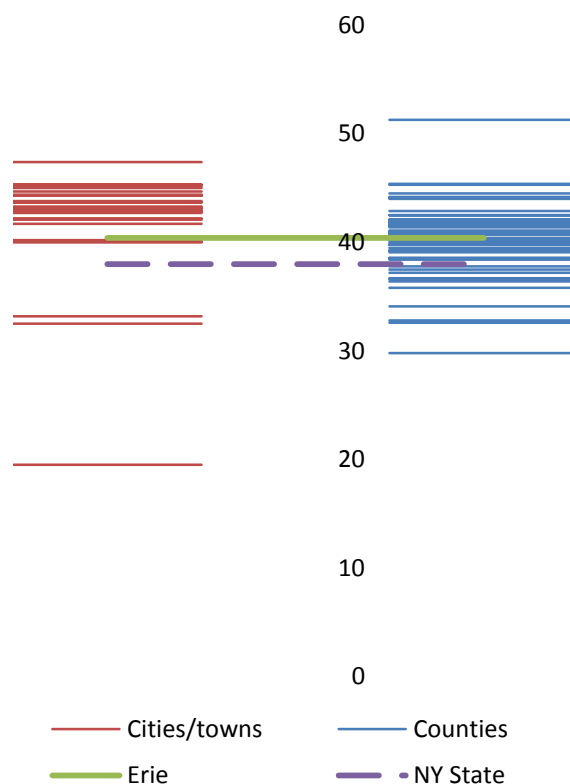
Alden town	43.2
Amherst town	40.2
Aurora town	45.3
Boston town	44.3
Brant town	43.0
Cheektowaga town	43.2
Clarence town	43.7
Colden town	45.2
Collins town	40.1
Concord town	42.9
Eden town	44.3
Elma town	47.4
Evans town	43.7
Grand Island town	42.8
Hamburg town	42.2
Holland town	42.8
Lancaster town	41.7
Marilla town	45.3
Newstead town	43.8
North Collins town	42.1
Orchard Park town	44.4
Sardinia town	44.4
Tonawanda town	43.3
Wales town	45.0
West Seneca town	44.7

#### Reservations

Cattaraugus Reservation	32.5
Tonawanda Reservation	19.5

Source: 2010 Decennial Census

Median age comparison  
within county (left) and  
between counties (right)



## 5 Race

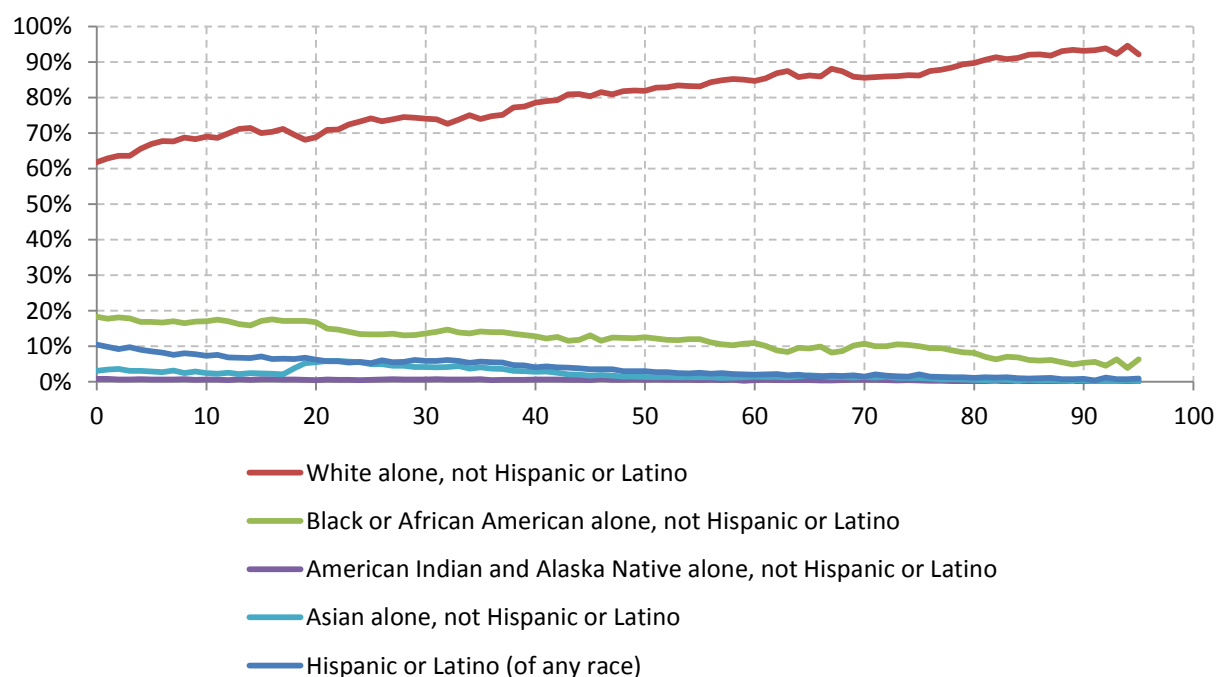
### 5.1 Total and household population by race

	Total		In households		In Group Quarters
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count
<b>Total population</b>	919,040	100%	890,653	100%	28,387
Not Hispanic or Latino					
One race					
White	714,156	77.7%	695,972	78.1%	18,184
Black or African American	119,916	13.0%	114,056	12.8%	5,860
American Indian and Alaska Native	5,199	0.6%	5,057	0.6%	142
Asian	23,621	2.6%	21,692	2.4%	1,929
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	165	0.0%	155	0.0%	10
Some other race	1,023	0.1%	913	0.1%	110
Two or more races	13,229	1.4%	12,879	1.4%	350
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	41,731	4.5%	39,929	4.5%	1,802

Source: 2010 Decennial Census

### 5.2 Race composition by age

Race composition by age, Erie County



Source: 2010 Decennial Census

## 6 Housing units

### 6.1 Characteristics

	COUNT		PERCENTAGE	
	Estimate	Margin of error	Estimate	Margin of error
<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>				
<b>Total housing units</b>	420,164	± 643	100.0%	
Occupied housing units	379,478	± 1,648	90.3%	± 0.4
Vacant housing units	40,686	± 1,502	9.7%	± 0.4
<b>YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT</b>				
<b>Total housing units</b>	420,164	± 643	100.0%	
Built 2005 or later	6,311	± 466	1.5%	± 0.1
Built 2000 to 2004	12,833	± 655	3.1%	± 0.2
Built 1990 to 1999	27,213	± 911	6.5%	± 0.2
Built 1980 to 1989	27,010	± 1,021	6.4%	± 0.2
Built 1970 to 1979	41,137	± 1,117	9.8%	± 0.3
Built 1960 to 1969	46,483	± 1,181	11.1%	± 0.3
Built 1950 to 1959	78,563	± 1,533	18.7%	± 0.4
Built 1940 to 1949	40,498	± 1,259	9.6%	± 0.3
Built 1939 or earlier	140,116	± 1,785	33.3%	± 0.4
<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>				
<b>Occupied housing units</b>	379,478	± 1,648	100.0%	
Owner-occupied	250,215	± 1,785	65.9%	± 0.4
Renter-occupied	129,263	± 1,830	34.1%	± 0.4
<b>HOUSE HEATING FUEL</b>				
<b>Occupied housing units</b>	379,478	± 1,648	100.0%	
Utility gas	337,293	± 1,751	88.9%	± 0.4
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	6,351	± 420	1.7%	± 0.1
Electricity	21,726	± 994	5.7%	± 0.3
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	7,562	± 615	2.0%	± 0.2
Coal or coke	331	± 103	0.1%	± 0.1
Wood	4,072	± 356	1.1%	± 0.1
Solar energy	0	± 89	0.0%	± 0.1
Other fuel	1,533	± 317	0.4%	± 0.1
No fuel used	610	± 133	0.2%	± 0.1
<b>VALUE</b>				
<b>Owner-occupied units</b>	250,215	± 1,785	100.0%	
Less than \$50,000	23,990	± 987	9.6%	± 0.4
\$50,000 to \$99,999	69,550	± 1,297	27.8%	± 0.5
\$100,000 to \$149,999	66,362	± 1,240	26.5%	± 0.5
\$150,000 to \$199,999	40,817	± 1,082	16.3%	± 0.4
\$200,000 to \$299,999	30,727	± 959	12.3%	± 0.4
\$300,000 to \$499,999	13,978	± 631	5.6%	± 0.2
\$500,000 to \$999,999	4,128	± 451	1.6%	± 0.2
\$1,000,000 or more	663	± 188	0.3%	± 0.1
Median (dollars)	120,600	± 818		

Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey

**6.2 Historical data on number of housing units and occupancy status**

Year	Number of Housing Units	Change since previous Census	Occupied	Occupancy rate	Vacant
1970	360,893		346,374	96.0%	14,519
1980	389,038	7.8%	365,217	93.9%	23,821
1990	402,131	3.4%	376,994	93.7%	25,137
2000	415,868	3.4%	380,873	91.6%	34,995
2010	419,974	1.0%	383,164	91.2%	36,810

*Source: 1970-2010 Decennial Census*

## 7 Education

### 7.1 Enrollment by level of school

	Estimate	Margin of error
<b>Total enrolled in school</b>	244,719	± 1,958
Nursery school, preschool	13,796	± 759
Kindergarten	11,850	± 643
Elementary: grade 1 to grade 4	43,384	± 1,083
Elementary: grade 5 to grade 8	47,023	± 1,068
High school: grade 9 to grade 12	51,252	± 1,024
College, undergraduate	61,149	± 1,775
Graduate, professional school	16,265	± 996

Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey

### 7.2 Enrollment by age

	Estimate	Margin of error
3 and 4 years	57.4%	± 2.5
5 to 9 years	96.9%	± 0.5
10 to 14 years	98.1%	± 0.5
15 to 17 years	96.8%	± 0.7
18 and 19 years	78.2%	± 2.1
20 to 24 years	51.5%	± 1.5
25 to 34 years	15.9%	± 0.8
35 years and over	2.2%	± 0.1

Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey

### 7.3 Percentage age 18-24 enrolled in college

	Estimate	Margin of error
Population 18 to 24 years	95,075	± 28
Enrolled in college or graduate school	52.7%	± 1.2
Males 18 to 24 years	48,407	± 27
Enrolled in college or graduate school	49.6%	± 1.8
Females 18 to 24 years	46,668	± 4
Enrolled in college or graduate school	56.0%	± 1.7

Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey

## 7.4 Educational attainment

	COUNT		PERCENTAGE	
	Estimate	Margin of error	Estimate	Margin of error
<b>Population 25 years and over</b>	623,220	± 28	100%	
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>				
Less than 9th grade	21,777	± 1,058	3.5%	± 0.2
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	47,665	± 1,307	7.6%	± 0.2
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	183,085	± 2,201	29.4%	± 0.4
Some college, no degree	116,094	± 2,104	18.6%	± 0.3
Associate's degree	68,713	± 1,855	11.0%	± 0.3
Bachelor's degree	103,362	± 1,739	16.6%	± 0.3
Graduate or professional degree	82,524	± 1,558	13.2%	± 0.2
Percent high school graduate or higher			88.9%	± 0.3
Percent bachelor's degree or higher			29.8%	± 0.4

Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey

## 8 Language spoken at home

	COUNT		PERCENTAGE		SPEAK ENGLISH LESS THAN "VERY WELL"	
	Estimate	Margin of error	Estimate	Margin of error	Estimate	Margin of error
<b>Population 5 years and over</b>	870,666	± 4	100%			
<b>LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME</b>						
English only	785,608	± 2,045	90.2%	± 0.2		
Language other than English	85,058	± 2,045	9.8%	± 0.2	29,004	± 1,354
Spanish	26,638	± 1,149	3.1%	± 0.1	8,265	± 700
Other Indo-European languages	36,008	± 1,763	4.1%	± 0.2	10,765	± 996
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	12,475	± 1,085	1.4%	± 0.1	5,738	± 842
Other languages	9,937	± 1,030	1.1%	± 0.1	4,236	± 709

Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey



## 9 Labor Force Characteristics

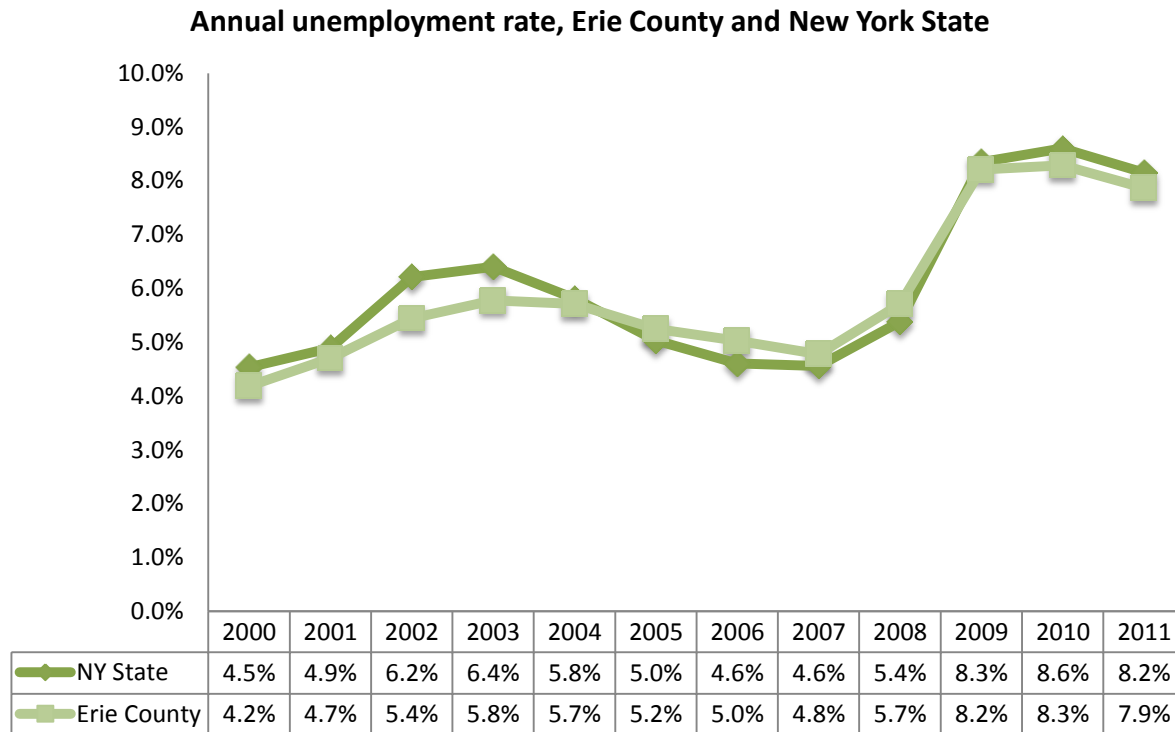
### 9.1 Labor force, employment and unemployment

	TOTAL		IN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYED		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	
	Estimate	Margin of error	Estimate	Margin of error	Estimate	Margin of error	Estimate	Margin of error
<b>Population 16 years and over</b>	743,979	± 573	63.3%	± 0.3	58.2%	± 0.4	8.0%	± 0.3
<b>AGE</b>								
16 to 19 years	53,331	± 574	47.0%	± 1.7	36.5%	± 1.7	22.1%	± 1.7
20 to 24 years	67,428	± 28	75.8%	± 1.3	66.4%	± 1.5	12.2%	± 1.1
25 to 44 years	223,476	± 78	84.1%	± 0.6	77.4%	± 0.7	7.7%	± 0.5
45 to 54 years	141,867	± 22	81.5%	± 0.7	76.9%	± 0.8	5.7%	± 0.5
55 to 64 years	113,718	± 35	61.6%	± 0.9	58.4%	± 0.9	5.2%	± 0.5
65 to 74 years	69,321	± 100	24.8%	± 1.1	23.3%	± 1.0	6.0%	± 1.0
75 years and over	74,838	± 74	5.4%	± 0.4	5.1%	± 0.4	5.3%	± 1.9
<b>RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN</b>								
One race	735,076	± 936	63.3%	± 0.3	58.2%	± 0.4	8.0%	± 0.3
White	611,795	± 854	64.7%	± 0.4	60.4%	± 0.4	6.5%	± 0.3
Black or African American	90,859	± 731	55.8%	± 1.1	45.6%	± 1.2	18.1%	± 1.5
American Indian and Alaska Native	3,694	± 295	58.8%	± 5.2	48.6%	± 5.5	16.5%	± 5.1
Asian	18,466	± 360	58.7%	± 3.3	54.6%	± 3.4	7.0%	± 2.0
Pacific Islander	156	± 90	94.2%	± 10.7	60.3%	± 40.6	36.1%	± 42.9
Some other race	10,106	± 722	58.4%	± 3.9	47.9%	± 3.8	17.9%	± 3.3
Two or more races	8,903	± 742	61.2%	± 4.0	53.2%	± 3.9	12.7%	± 3.2
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	26,608	± 188	61.0%	± 2.2	52.4%	± 2.5	13.9%	± 2.1
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	597,818	± 566	64.7%	± 0.4	60.5%	± 0.4	6.4%	± 0.3
<b>SEX</b>								
<b>Population 20 to 64 years</b>	546,489	± 78	77.7%	± 0.4	72.0%	± 0.5	7.3%	± 0.3
Male	267,919	± 91	81.2%	± 0.5	74.5%	± 0.6	8.0%	± 0.4
Female	278,570	± 87	74.4%	± 0.6	69.5%	± 0.6	6.5%	± 0.4
With own children under 6 years	39,475	± 1,157	71.2%	± 1.4	64.1%	± 1.6	9.9%	± 1.3
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>								
<b>Population 25 to 64 years</b>	479,061	± 78	78.0%	± 0.4	72.7%	± 0.4	6.6%	± 0.3
Less than high school graduate	37,339	± 1,476	50.8%	± 1.9	41.3%	± 1.8	18.7%	± 2.0
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	126,417	± 2,009	72.7%	± 0.8	66.0%	± 0.8	9.2%	± 0.7
Some college or associate's degree	155,800	± 2,250	80.3%	± 0.7	74.9%	± 0.7	6.5%	± 0.5
Bachelor's degree or higher	159,505	± 2,261	86.3%	± 0.5	83.3%	± 0.6	3.4%	± 0.3

Table formula: **LABOR FORCE** = # EMPLOYED + # UNEMPLOYED  
**% IN LABOR FORCE** = LABOR FORCE / TOTAL \* 100%  
**% EMPLOYED** = # EMPLOYED / TOTAL \* 100%  
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** = # UNEMPLOYED / LABOR FORCE \* 100%

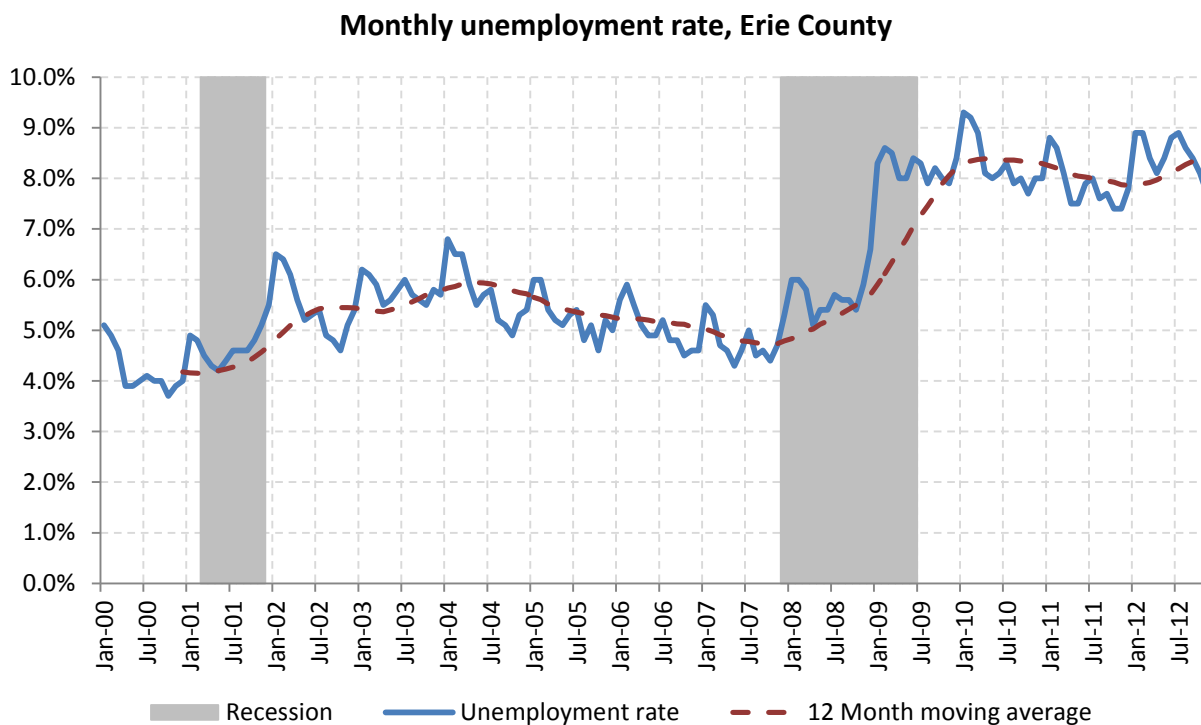
Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey

## 9.2 Annual unemployment rate



Source: Bureau Labor Statistics (BLS)

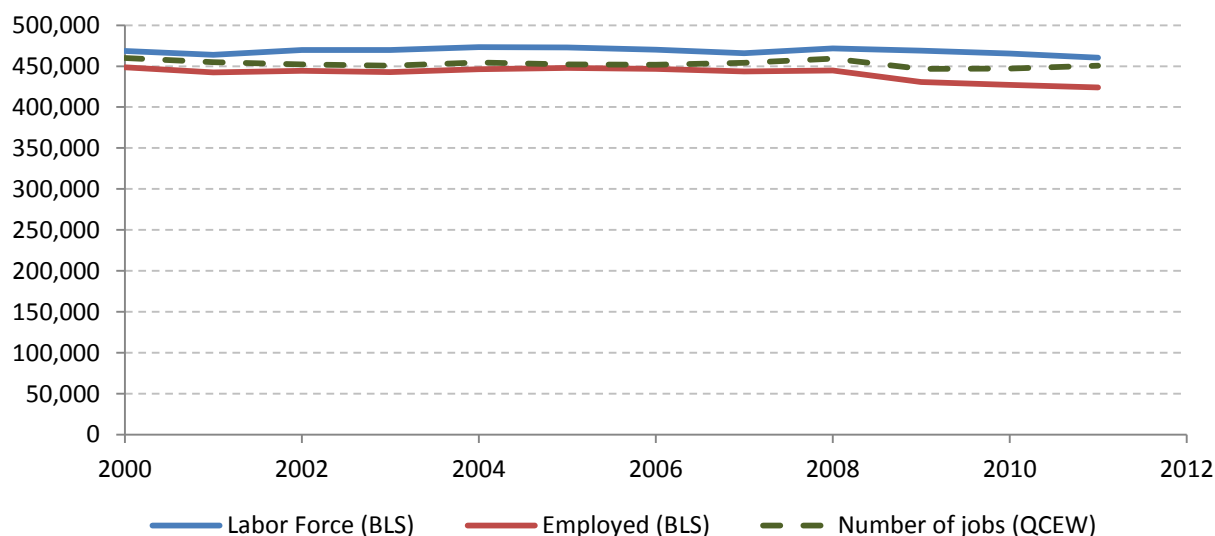
## 9.3 Monthly unemployment rate



Source: Bureau Labor Statistics (BLS)

## 9.4 Employment and number of jobs

**Labor force, number of employed workers and number of jobs  
Erie County**



Source: Bureau Labor Statistics (BLS) and NY Department of Labor - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) – annual averages

## 9.5 Class of worker

		Median earnings (\$)					
		Total	%Male	%Female	Total	Male	Female
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	Estimate	432,735	50.7%	49.3%	33,143	40,638	28,066
	Margin of error	± 2,861	± 0.3	± 0.3	± 399	± 469	± 518
Private for-profit wage and salary workers:	Estimate	294,257	53.8%	46.2%	30,916	38,351	24,994
	Margin of error	± 2,617	± 0.4	± 0.4	± 354	± 781	± 521
Employee of private company workers	Estimate	282,547	52.9%	47.1%	30,508	37,396	24,927
	Margin of error	± 2,698	± 0.4	± 0.4	± 349	± 685	± 538
Self-employed in own incorporated business workers	Estimate	11,710	75.0%	25.0%	50,669	58,430	30,509
	Margin of error	± 831	± 2.7	± 2.7	± 3,228	± 5,829	± 4,024
Private not-for-profit wage and salary workers	Estimate	45,851	32.2%	67.8%	31,975	34,243	31,393
	Margin of error	± 1,473	± 1.4	± 1.4	± 720	± 2,401	± 692
Local government workers	Estimate	39,055	41.4%	58.6%	44,004	51,251	39,364
	Margin of error	± 1,279	± 1.7	± 1.7	± 940	± 1,316	± 1,454
State government workers	Estimate	26,097	50.5%	49.5%	47,955	53,688	42,223
	Margin of error	± 1,079	± 2.1	± 2.1	± 1,988	± 2,354	± 1,865
Federal government workers	Estimate	9,327	52.6%	47.4%	56,414	58,661	53,397
	Margin of error	± 745	± 3.7	± 3.7	± 1,684	± 2,094	± 2,165
Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers and unpaid family workers	Estimate	18,148	65.9%	34.1%	23,185	30,056	16,053
	Margin of error	± 1,004	± 2.3	± 2.3	± 1,887	± 3,536	± 1,696

Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey

## 9.6 Jobs by industry sector

	Erie County			NY state
	2011	Change since 2006	% of total	% of total
<b>All NAICS Sectors</b>	459,438	-1.5%	100.0%	100.0%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	707	-9.5%	0.2%	0.3%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	328	94.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Utilities	1,691	-18.2%	0.4%	0.5%
Construction	16,088	-0.3%	3.5%	3.5%
Manufacturing	42,439	-12.9%	9.2%	5.5%
Wholesale Trade	20,636	-8.7%	4.5%	4.0%
Retail Trade	53,608	-8.3%	11.7%	10.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	15,127	3.0%	3.3%	3.4%
Information	9,070	5.2%	2.0%	3.3%
Finance and Insurance	25,570	-6.8%	5.6%	6.0%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6,445	-9.0%	1.4%	2.3%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	25,805	10.2%	5.6%	6.9%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	11,096	2.0%	2.4%	1.6%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	28,957	-1.8%	6.3%	5.2%
Educational Services	46,792	-2.1%	10.2%	10.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	71,250	5.6%	15.5%	17.0%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	6,463	5.8%	1.4%	1.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	41,082	12.7%	8.9%	7.3%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	18,255	0.7%	4.0%	3.9%
Public Administration	18,031	-9.2%	3.9%	5.8%

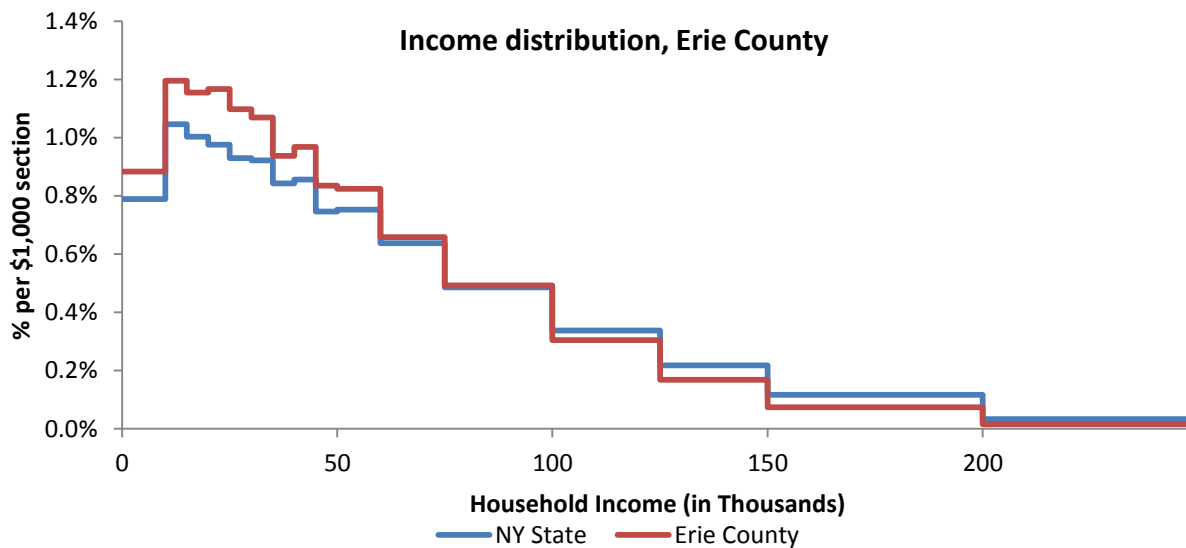
Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Public Use Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) – annual averages

## 10 Household Income

### 10.1 Distribution

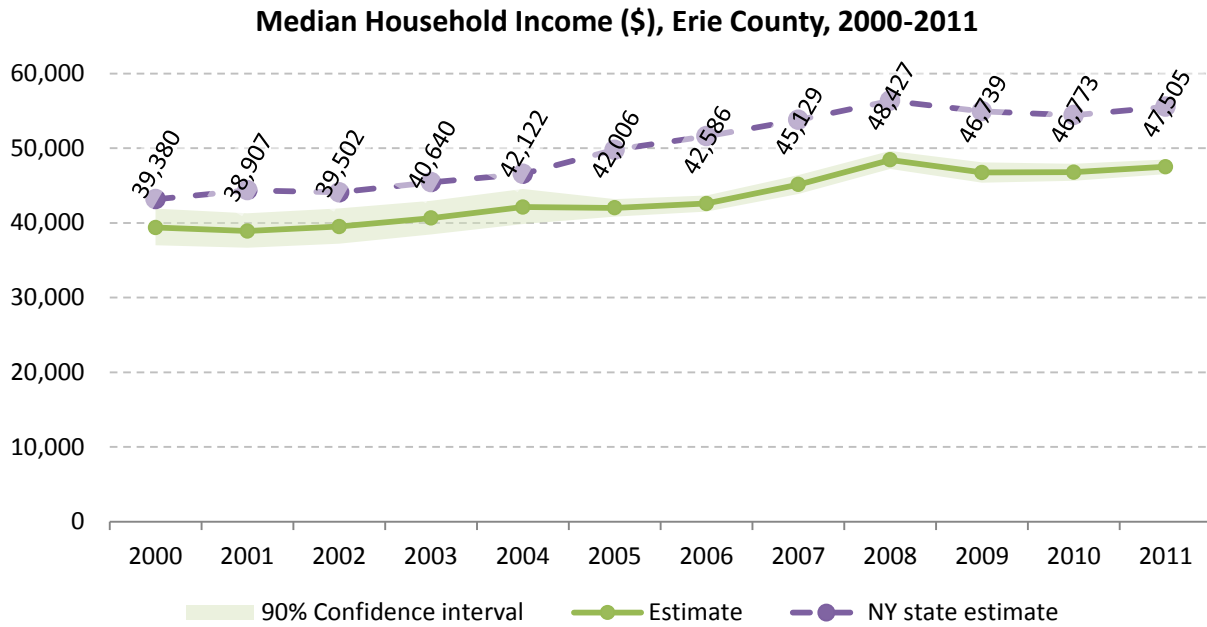
	Estimate	Margin of error	Interval width (in \$1,000)	Est. per \$1,000 section
<b>Total:</b>	379,478	± 1,648		
Less than \$10,000	33,513	± 1,186	10	3,351.3
\$10,000 to \$14,999	22,676	± 988	5	4,535.2
\$15,000 to \$19,999	21,920	± 733	5	4,384.0
\$20,000 to \$24,999	22,142	± 1,039	5	4,428.4
\$25,000 to \$29,999	20,830	± 914	5	4,166.0
\$30,000 to \$34,999	20,283	± 846	5	4,056.6
\$35,000 to \$39,999	17,781	± 968	5	3,556.2
\$40,000 to \$44,999	18,362	± 856	5	3,672.4
\$45,000 to \$49,999	15,850	± 858	5	3,170.0
\$50,000 to \$59,999	31,264	± 1,168	10	3,126.4
\$60,000 to \$74,999	37,456	± 1,027	15	2,497.1
\$75,000 to \$99,999	46,733	± 1,347	25	1,869.3
\$100,000 to \$124,999	28,922	± 1,105	25	1,156.9
\$125,000 to \$149,999	15,948	± 801	25	637.9
\$150,000 to \$199,999	14,100	± 600	50	282.0
\$200,000 or more	11,698	± 639	-	-

Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey



Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey

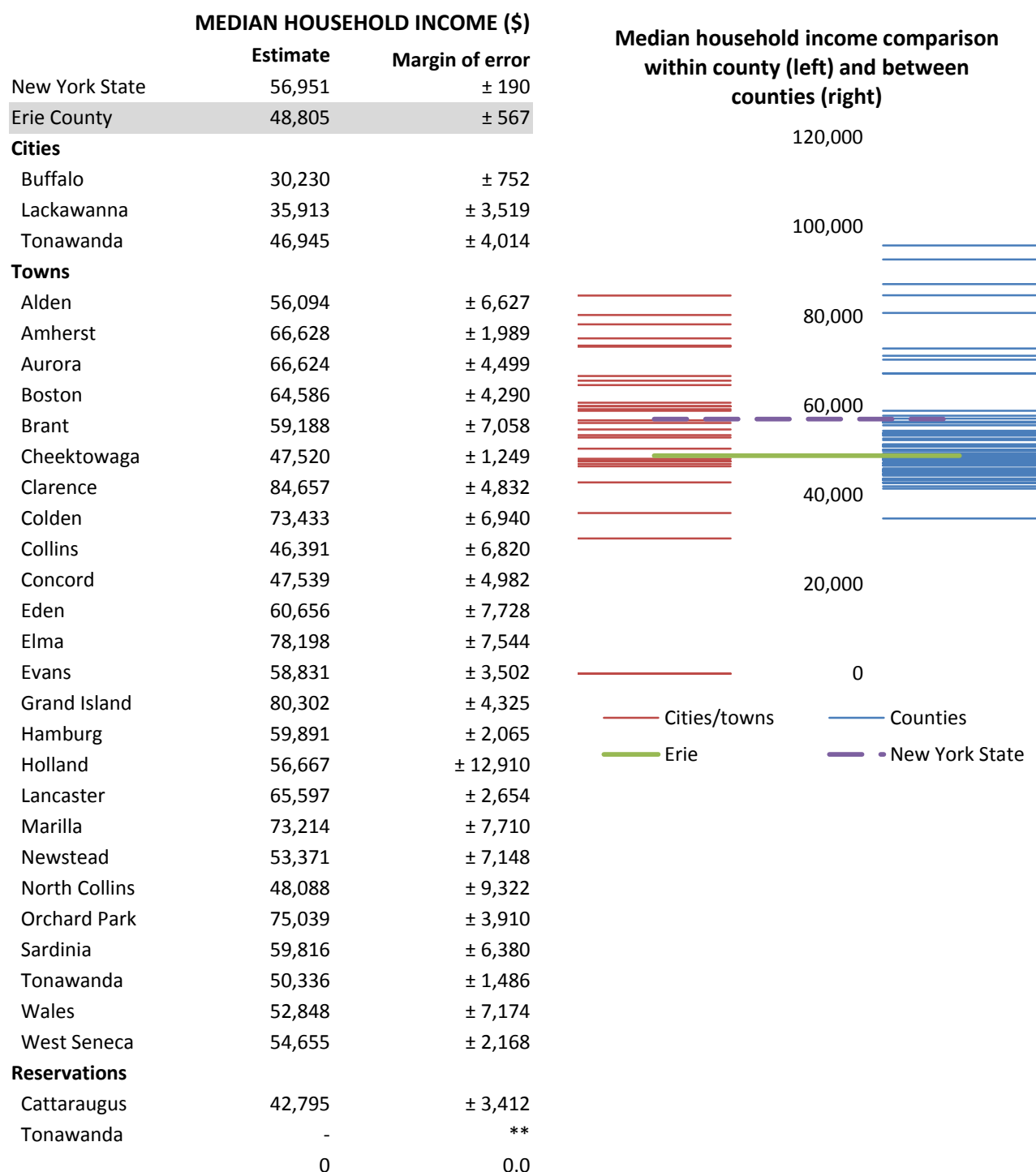
## 10.2 Median household income: Trends over time



Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)



### 10.3 Median household income: Comparison between areas



Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey

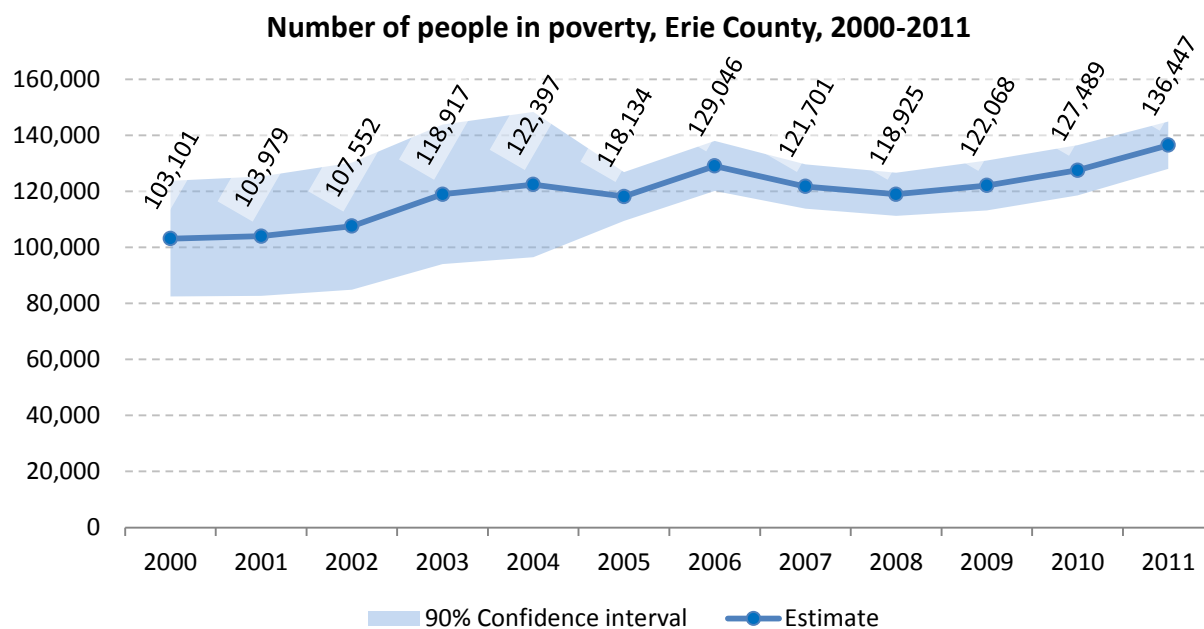
## 11 Poverty

### 11.1 Poverty characteristics

	TOTAL		BELOW POVERTY LEVEL		PERCENT BELOW POVERTY LEVEL	
	Estimate	Margin of error	Estimate	Margin of error	Estimate	Margin of error
<b>Population for whom poverty status is determined</b>	892,646	± 1,465	126,609	± 3,512	14.2%	± 0.4
<b>AGE</b>						
Under 18 years	198,421	± 476	41,292	± 1,884	20.8%	± 1.0
Related children under 18 years	197,480	± 525	40,355	± 1,878	20.4%	± 1.0
18 to 64 years	556,095	± 1,268	73,822	± 2,110	13.3%	± 0.4
65 years and over	138,130	± 642	11,495	± 636	8.3%	± 0.5
<b>SEX</b>						
Male	429,057	± 1,018	54,282	± 1,945	12.7%	± 0.4
Female	463,589	± 948	72,327	± 2,252	15.6%	± 0.5
<b>RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN</b>						
One race	876,832	± 2,130	122,205	± 3,552	13.9%	± 0.4
White	720,542	± 1,930	67,525	± 2,315	9.4%	± 0.3
Black or African American	116,601	± 1,230	41,869	± 2,178	35.9%	± 1.7
American Indian and Alaska Native	4,691	± 378	1,141	± 308	24.3%	± 6.2
Asian	22,095	± 585	5,851	± 898	26.5%	± 4.0
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	38,535	± 297	14,201	± 1,271	36.9%	± 3.2
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	699,999	± 1,197	61,306	± 2,215	8.8%	± 0.3
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>						
<b>Population 25 years and over</b>	611,771	± 1,055	65,942	± 1,625	10.8%	± 0.3
Less than high school graduate	65,712	± 1,732	17,708	± 1,128	26.9%	± 1.5
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	178,355	± 2,130	21,827	± 1,033	12.2%	± 0.6
Some college, associate's degree	182,831	± 2,572	18,256	± 990	10.0%	± 0.5
Bachelor's degree or higher	184,873	± 2,312	8,151	± 707	4.4%	± 0.4
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>						
<b>Civilian labor force 16 years and over</b>	465,949	± 2,682	37,454	± 1,227	8.0%	± 0.3
Employed	428,755	± 2,881	25,391	± 1,034	5.9%	± 0.2
Male	217,733	± 1,898	10,502	± 820	4.8%	± 0.4
Female	211,022	± 1,941	14,889	± 785	7.1%	± 0.4
Unemployed	37,194	± 1,432	12,063	± 775	32.4%	± 1.6
Male	20,732	± 959	5,581	± 516	26.9%	± 2.2
Female	16,462	± 937	6,482	± 602	39.4%	± 2.4
<b>WORK EXPERIENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS</b>						
<b>Population 16 years and over</b>	719,474	± 1,629	89,419	± 2,266	12.4%	± 0.3
Worked full-time, year-round	280,955	± 2,709	5,019	± 498	1.8%	± 0.2
Worked part-time or part-year	198,286	± 2,411	31,126	± 1,349	15.7%	± 0.6
Did not work	240,233	± 2,817	53,274	± 1,878	22.2%	± 0.6

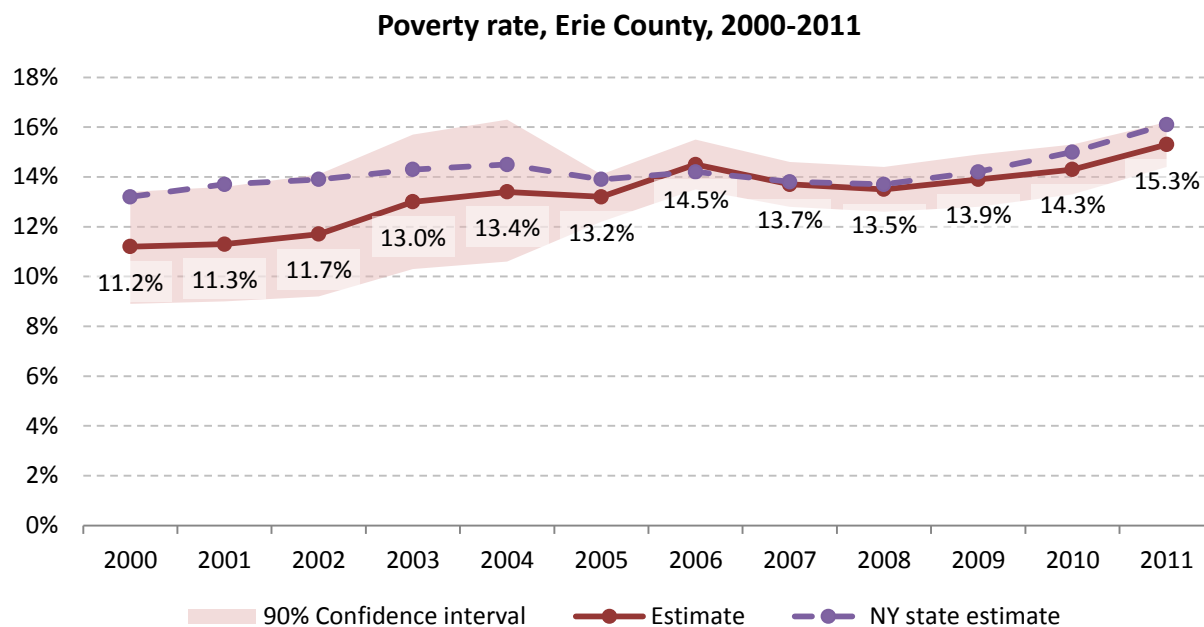
Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey

## 11.2 Poverty: Trends over time: Count



Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

## 11.3 Poverty: Trends over time: Rate

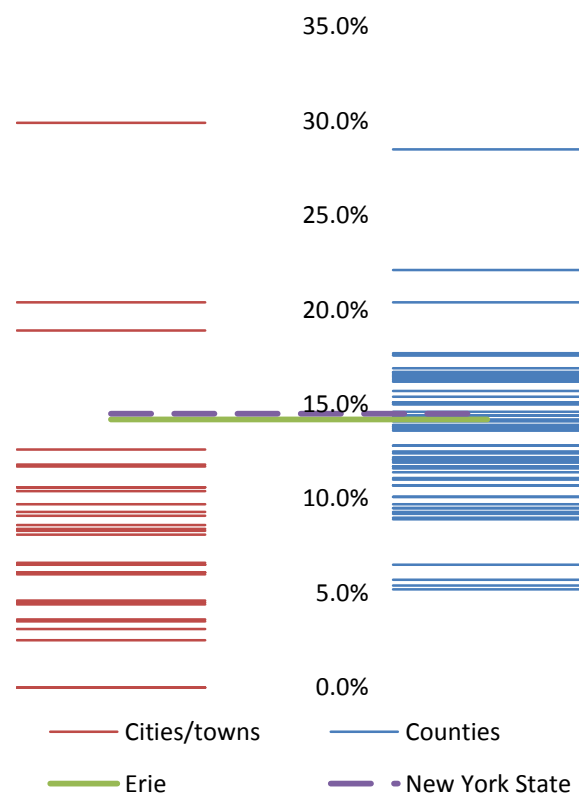


Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

## 11.4 Poverty rate: comparison between areas

Poverty Rate - All people		
	Estimate	Margin of error
New York State	14.5%	± 0.1
Erie County	14.2%	± 0.4
<b>Cities</b>		
Buffalo	29.9%	± 1.2
Lackawanna	20.4%	± 4.1
Tonawanda	11.7%	± 2.7
<b>Towns</b>		
Alden	6.1%	± 2.4
Amherst	8.6%	± 0.8
Aurora	3.1%	± 1.1
Boston	4.6%	± 2.3
Brant	9.3%	± 4.7
Cheektowaga	9.1%	± 1.0
Clarence	3.6%	± 1.0
Colden	6.6%	± 3.6
Collins	10.4%	± 4.9
Concord	9.7%	± 3.1
Eden	4.4%	± 1.7
Elma	6.0%	± 2.4
Evans	8.4%	± 2.2
Grand Island	4.5%	± 1.2
Hamburg	6.5%	± 0.9
Holland	10.6%	± 4.4
Lancaster	6.5%	± 1.2
Marilla	2.5%	± 2.6
Newstead	8.3%	± 3.3
North Collins	12.6%	± 5.6
Orchard Park	3.5%	± 1.0
Sardinia	8.1%	± 3.0
Tonawanda	10.6%	± 1.3
Wales	11.8%	± 7.0
West Seneca	6.1%	± 1.7
<b>Reservations</b>		
Cattaraugus	18.9%	± 7.7
Tonawanda	0.0%	± 79.3
	0.0%	0.0

Poverty rate comparison  
within county (left) and  
between counties (right)

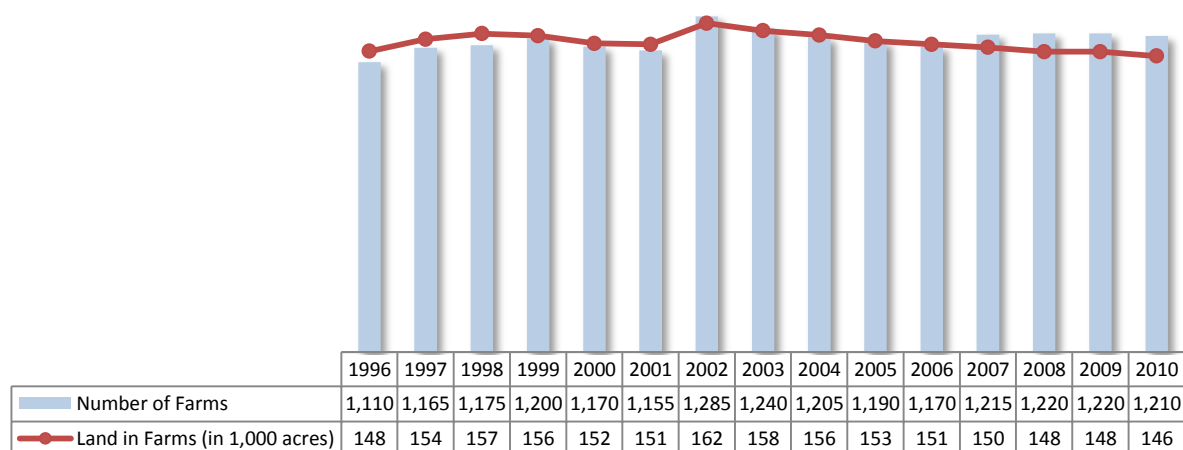


Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey

## 12 Agriculture

### 12.1 Number of farms and land in farms

Erie County, 1996-2010



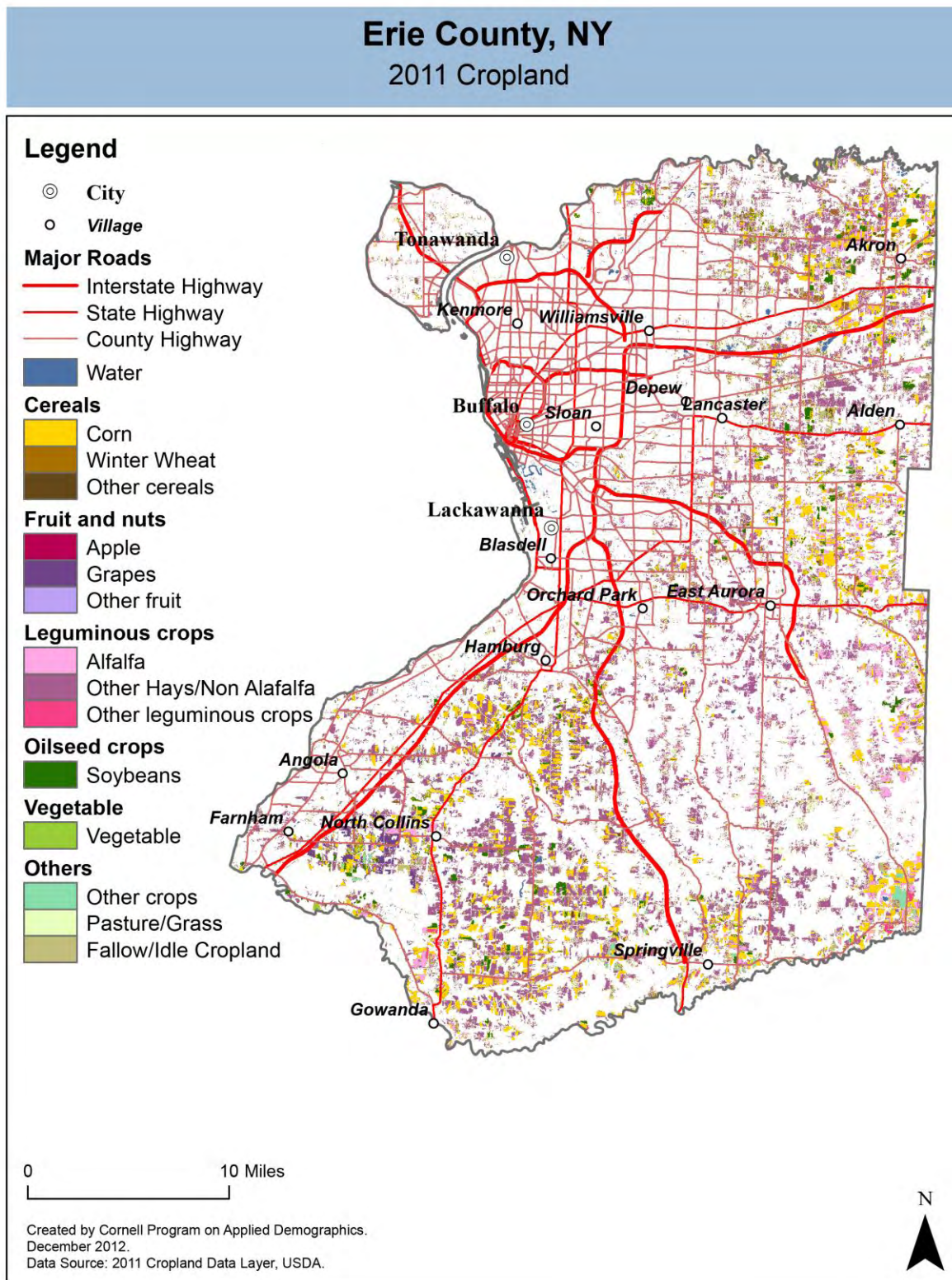
Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service – Annual Statistical bulletin

### 12.2 Farm Operator Characteristics

	Principal Operator		
	Total	Male	Female
<b>Number of farms</b>	1,215	932	283
Average size of farm (acres)	123	145	49
PRIMARY OCCUPATION			
Farming	636	510	126
Other	579	422	157
AGE			
Under 45	215	155	60
45 to 64 years	628	476	152
65 years and over	372	301	71
Average age (years)	57.1	57.7	55
YEARS ON PRESENT FARM			
Less than 3 years	42	32	10
3 to 4 years	58	40	18
5 to 9 years	159	107	52
10 years or more	956	753	203

Source: 2007 Agricultural Census

## 12.3 Map of type of crop



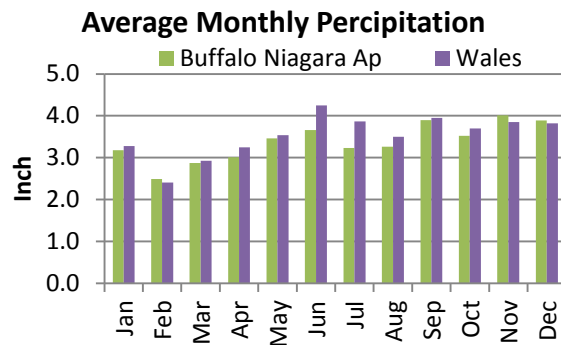
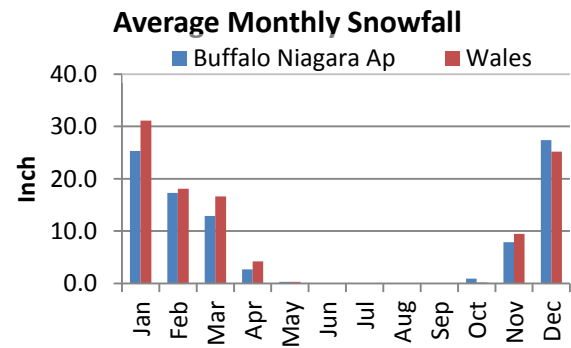
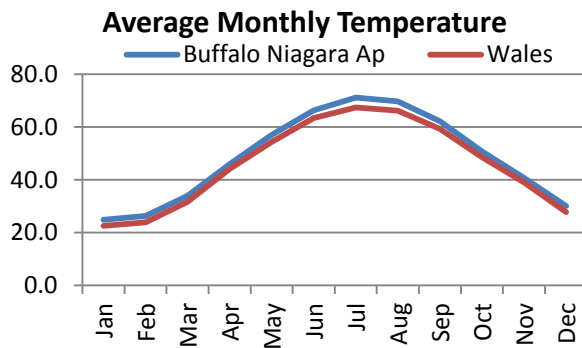
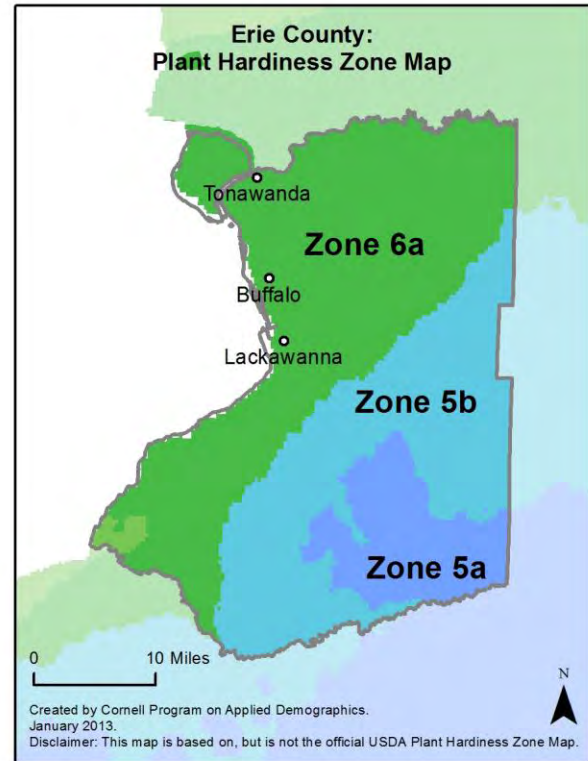
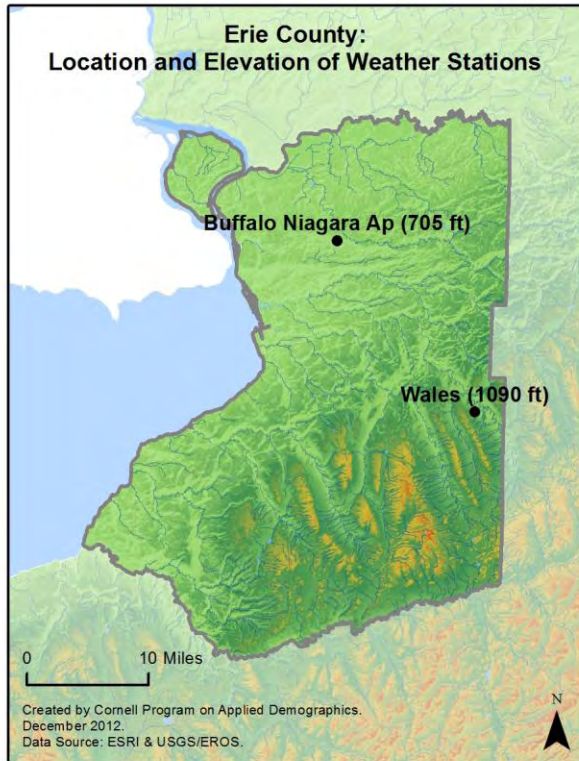


## 12.4 Estimated acreage by crop

	Acreage	%		Acreage	%
<b>Cereals</b>			<b>Fruit and nuts</b>		
Barley	33	0.0%	Apples	67	0.0%
Corn	30,384	18.4%	Apricots	-	
Millet	-		Blueberries	-	
Oats	608	0.4%	Cherries	1.3	0.0%
Rye	210	0.1%	Cranberries	-	
Sorghum	3.8	0.0%	Grapes	4,458	2.7%
Speltz	33	0.0%	Nectarines	-	
Spring Wheat	59	0.0%	Peaches	0.7	0.0%
Sweet Corn	103	0.1%	Plums	-	
Triticale	119	0.1%	Prunes	0.9	0.0%
Winter Wheat	3,258	2.0%	Strawberries	24	0.0%
Dbl Crop WinWht/Corn	2.0	0.0%	Walnuts	0.9	0.0%
<b>Leguminous crops</b>			<b>Beverage and spice crops</b>		
Alfalfa	14,870	9.0%	Herbs	-	
Other Hay/Non Alfalfa	75,423	45.8%	Peppers	3.1	0.0%
Dry Beans	548	0.3%	<b>Trees</b>		
Peas	6	0.0%	Christmas Trees	11	0.0%
Vetch	-		Other Tree Crops	-	
<b>Oilseed crops</b>			<b>Other crops</b>		
Soybeans	7,348	4.5%	Tobacco	-	
Sunflower	0.4	0.0%	Misc Veggies & Fruits	12	0.0%
<b>Sugar crops</b>			Clover/Wildflowers	102	0.1%
Sugarbeets	7	0.0%	Sod/Grass Seed	17	0.0%
<b>Root/tuber crops with high starch or inulin content</b>			Switchgrass	0.2	0.0%
Potatoes	955	0.6%	Dbl Crop Soybeans/Oats	-	
<b>Vegetables and melons</b>			Dbl Crop WinWht/Soybeans	-	
Asparagus	-		Other Crops	328	0.2%
Broccoli	-		<b>Pasture/Grass</b>	19,486	11.8%
Cabbage	-		<b>Fallow/Idle Cropland</b>	6,251	3.8%
Carrots	-				
Eggplants	-				
Onions	20	0.0%			
Pumpkins	-				
Squash	13	0.0%			
Tomatoes	-				
Turnips	-				

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service - Cropland Data Layer 2011

## 13 Climate



**Average length of freeze-free season**

	Last day of frost	First day of frost	Season length
Buffalo Niagara Ap	April 23	October 20	179
Wales	May 15	October 4	142

Source: NOAA, Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University. Averages 1981-2010

## 14 Glossary

**American Community Survey (ACS)** - The American Community Survey is an ongoing survey of the population that provides data every year on a variety of social and economic characteristics—age, sex, race, family and relationships, income and benefits, health insurance, education, veteran status, disabilities, where you work and how you get there, where you live and how much you pay for some essentials. The ACS replaced the information previously gathered by what was known as the “long form” of the decennial censuses. The ACS provides communities, companies and other institutions with current information they need to plan investments and services. Information from the survey generates data that help determine how more than \$400 billion in federal and state funds are distributed each year. Every estimate presented in the American Community Survey, as in other surveys, has an uncertainty associated with it. Often the magnitude of that uncertainty is expressed as the Margin of Error.

**Confidence Interval (CI)** - indication of the degree of uncertainty about a sample estimates. Confidence intervals have been traditionally reported at the 90, 95 and 99 percent levels. A 90 percent confidence interval can be interpreted, for example, roughly as providing 90 percent certainty that the interval defined by the upper and lower bounds contain the true value of the characteristic. If a Margin of Error is given, the lower bound of the confidence interval is equal to the estimate minus the Margin of Error and the upper bound is equal to the estimate plus the Margin of Error. (See further, Margin of Error definition below.)

**County subdivision or Minor Civil Division (MCD)** - The Census Bureau geography for primary administrative units below the county level in New York is collectively referred to as county subdivisions or minor civil divisions. These include towns, cities and Indian Reservations.

**Decennial Census** - the Census of the population and housing taken every 10 years in the United States, at the start of each decade, since 1790.

**Employed** – either “at work” or “with a job, but not at work”.

**Group Quarters Population** - all U.S. residents who live in group living facilities including correctional institutions, juvenile facilities, skilled nursing facilities, college residence halls, military barracks, group homes, and workers' dormitories.

**Household Population** - all U.S. residents who live in housing units such as single family homes, townhouses, apartments, and mobile homes.

**Intercensal Population Estimates** - estimates produced for the years between two decennial censuses when both the beginning and ending populations are known. They are produced once a decade by adjusting the existing time series of postcensal estimates for the entire decade to smooth the transition from one decennial census count to the next. They differ from the postcensal estimates that are released annually because the difference between the April 1 postcensal estimate and April 1 census count for the end of the decade is redistributed across the estimates for that decade. For dates when both postcensal and intercensal estimates are available, intercensal estimates are preferred.

**Labor Force** - consists of people classified as employed or unemployed.

**Margin of Error (MOE)** - a measure of the precision of an estimate at a given level of confidence. The confidence level of a margin of error indicates the likelihood that the difference between the population value (which you

would get if you could measure the whole population instead of a sample) and the estimate is less than or equal to the margin of error. The range from the estimate minus the margin of error to the estimate plus the margin of error is called the confidence interval. All ACS estimates are published with their margins of error at the 90 percent confidence level. Margins of error are useful in assessing the reliability of estimates and whether differences between estimates are significant.

**NAICS** - The North American Industry Classification System or NAICS is used by business and government to classify business establishments according to type of economic activity (process of production).

**Numeric Population Change** - difference between the population of an area at the beginning and end of a time period. It is computed by taking the difference between the population at one point in time (t1) and some future time (t2).

**Percent Population Change** - difference between the population of an area at the beginning and end of a time period, expressed as a percentage of the beginning population. It is computed by dividing the population change (t2 - t1) by t1 and multiplying the result by 100.

**Population Estimates** - The calculated number of people living in an area as of a specified point in time, usually July 1st. The estimated population is calculated using a component of change model that incorporates information on natural increase (births, deaths) and net migration (net domestic migration, net international migration) that has occurred in an area since the latest decennial census. A procedure for estimating the current population using a procedure involving a "base population" value at time t -1, adding to that the births during the interval t-1 to t, subtracting the deaths during that interval t-1 to t, and then adding the net domestic and net international migration that occurred during that interval.

**Population Density** - Total number of people per areal unit like a square mile or square kilometer.

**Population Pyramids** - A graphical way of portraying a population's age and sex composition at a given slice in time. The first horizontal bar, constituting the base of the graph, is the youngest age group (typically 0-4) with the number of males in that age group on the left and the number of females in that age group on the right. On top of that age group is another horizontal bar for the next age group (e.g. 5-9) and so forth with the top bar typically for those aged 75 and over. In a population with lots of births and deaths, the shape typically forms a pyramid with a broad base and a narrow top. It is one of the most basic ways to understand population change over time as well as between different geographic units of a similar status (e.g. counties).

**Postcensal Estimates** - estimates produced for the years after a decennial census when only the beginning population is known. They are produced and revised each year, targeted to July 1 of that year.

**Projection** - estimated population at some future time based on assumptions about births, deaths, migration, and ages.

**Race/Ethnicity** - the Census Bureau collects racial data in accordance with guidelines provided by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and these data are based on self-identification. The racial categories included in the census questionnaire generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in this country and not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically. In addition, it is recognized that the categories of the race item include racial and national origin or sociocultural groups. People may choose to report more than one race to indicate their racial mixture, such as "American Indian" and "White." People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race. OMB requires five minimum categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific

Islander. Hispanics may be classified as white or black. So we generally separate them out as an ethnic group first.

**Unemployed** – Not employed, but actively looking for work and available to accept a job.

**Unemployment rate** – Fraction of the Labor Force that is unemployed.

**Urban Area** – A densely settled area with at least 2,500 people. If the total number of people is less than 50,000 the Census Bureau calls it an Urban Cluster, otherwise an Urbanized Area.

**Vintage** - each year, the U.S. Census Bureau produces and publishes estimates of the population for each state and county, as well as the nation as a whole. These are called “vintages.” In producing these vintages, the Bureau utilizes administrative data from a number of sources to estimate 1) the change in population since the most recent decennial census, and 2) the population for each year since the most recent decennial census. With each annual release of population estimates (vintage), the entire time series of estimates beginning on April 1, 2010 is revised and updated.

## 15 References

Erie County homepage: <http://www2.erie.gov/>

At Cornell:

- Cornell Cooperative Extensions (CCE)  
Home page: <http://www.cce.cornell.edu>
  - Erie local office: <http://cceeriecounty.shutterfly.com/>
- Program on Applied Demographics (PAD)  
URL: <http://pad.human.cornell.edu/>
- Community and Regional Development Institute (CaRDI)  
URL: <http://devsoc.cals.cornell.edu/cals/devsoc/outreach/cardi/index.cfm>

Data sources and background information:

- U.S. Census Bureau - general
  - QuickFacts: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36/36029.html>
  - QuickLinks: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36/36029lk.html>
  - American FactFinder: <http://factfinder2.census.gov>
- U.S. Census Bureau - population
  - Decennial Census
    - Background: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>
    - Demographic Profile: [http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/DEC/10\\_SF1/SF1DP1/0500000US360299](http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/DEC/10_SF1/SF1DP1/0500000US360299)
  - American Community Survey (ACS)
    - Background: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>
    - Social Data Profile: [http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/10\\_5YR/DP02/0500000US36029](http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/10_5YR/DP02/0500000US36029)
    - Economic Data Profile: [http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/10\\_5YR/DP03/0500000US36029](http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/10_5YR/DP03/0500000US36029)
    - Housing Data Profile: [http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/10\\_5YR/DP04/0500000US36029](http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/10_5YR/DP04/0500000US36029)
    - Demographics Data Profile: [http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/10\\_5YR/DP05/0500000US36029](http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/10_5YR/DP05/0500000US36029)
  - Population estimates: <http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.html>
- U.S. Census Bureau – Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)
  - <http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/>
- U.S. Census Bureau - Public Use Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) – annual averages
  - <http://www2.vrdc.cornell.edu/news/data/qwi-public-use-data/>
- Bureau Labor Statistics (BLS) – Local Area Unemployment Statistics: <http://www.bls.gov/lau/>
- NY Department of Labor -
  - Labor statistics: <http://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/>
  - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW): <http://www.labor.ny.gov/stats/lsqcew.shtm>
- Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) – Local Area Personal Income and Employment: <http://bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1>

- USDA Census of Agriculture
  - 2007
    - Home page: <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/index.php>
    - County profile: [http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online\\_Highlights/County\\_Profiles/New\\_York/cp36029.pdf](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/New_York/cp36029.pdf)
    - Race, Ethnicity and Gender Profiles: [http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online\\_Highlights/Race\\_Ethnicity\\_and\\_Gender\\_Profiles/New\\_York/cpd36029.pdf](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/Race_Ethnicity_and_Gender_Profiles/New_York/cpd36029.pdf)
- USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)
  - Home page: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/index.asp>
  - New York Statistical Bulletins: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/New\\_York/Publications/Annual\\_Statistical\\_Bulletin/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_York/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/)
  - Cropland Data Layer – CropScape: <http://nassgeodata.gmu.edu/CropScape/>
- USDA Agricultural Research Service – Plant Hardness Zone Map: <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>
- NOAA, Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University
  - Home page: <http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu/index.html>

Alternative sites for data retrieval:

- The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government – New York State Statistical Yearbooks [http://www.rockinst.org/nys\\_statistics/](http://www.rockinst.org/nys_statistics/)
- Headwaters Economics: Economic Profile System – Human Dimensions Toolkit <http://headwaterseconomics.org/tools/eps-hdt>
- National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS) <https://www.nhgis.org/>
- Social Explorer <http://www.socialexplorer.com/pub/home/home.aspx>
- Missouri Census Data Center <http://mcdc.missouri.edu/>
- DataFerret <http://dataferrett.census.gov/>
- Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) Census project <http://census.ire.org/>